



Atty. Dkt. No. 040447-0227

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Masaaki NISHINO, et al
Title: PORTABLE INFORMATION
TERMINAL EQUIPPED WITH
CAMERA
Appl. No.: 09/733033
Filing Date: 12/11/2000
Examiner: Unknown
Art Unit: 2851

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form PTO SB/08 is a listing of document(s) known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. A copy of the listed document(s) is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first action under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). In the alternative, the instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37

C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(1) and that this Statement is being filed within 30 days of receipt of said communication.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08B were cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding Japanese and Korean applications. A copy of an English language abstract of the listed documents, if available, is being provided. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider this document (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609).

The Examiner in the corresponding Japanese and Korean patent applications has commented as follows:

Japan 09/733,033

Note (For a list of the cited literature, see the List of Cited Literature.)

Claims: 1, 2

Cited literature: Publication 1

Remarks:

A comparison of the invention relating to Claims 1 and 2 and the invention described in Publication 1 reveals no point of difference.

Note (For a list of the cited literature, see the List of Cited Literature.)

Claim: 1

Cited literature: Prior Application Specifications 2

Remarks:

A comparison of the invention relating to Claim 1 and the invention described in Prior Application Specifications 2 reveals no point of difference.

List of Cited Literature

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H10-313452

Japanese Patent Application H11-051122 (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2000-253113)

Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results

Fields searched	IPC 7 th Edition	H04N 5/225
		G06F 1/16
		G06F 15/02
		H04M 1/00
		H04M 1/02
		H04N 7/14

DB Name

Prior art literature Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H11-069214

This Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results does not constitute a reason for rejection.

Korea 09/733 033

(Details)

The invention described in the Scope of Patent Claims of this application contains an optical viewfinder for reducing the consumption of electricity and it is an information terminal that can also be used as a portable camera connected by a pair of cases that are connected by a hinge part in order to make it foldable.

If we compare the cited invention (Korea Published Patent Announcement 1999-24567; Published April 6, 1999)

which is a digital camera device that can also be used as a mobile phone with the invention of this application, the purposes of the invention of this application and the cited invention are the same in that they both intend to improve the convenient handling and portability of a terminal used also as a camera.

As for the configuration, the invention of this application and the cited invention are similar in that they both use a hinge to connect a pair of cases. However, a distinctive feature of this application is that it has a separate viewfinder in order to reduce electricity consumption. However, when considering the trend of cameras and camcorders that widely use liquid display devices instead of viewfinders and the continuous increase in battery recharging ability, the addition of a separate viewfinder to reduce the consumption of electricity increases the number of parts and complexity of the structure with the addition of an unnecessary part, and it is thought that this reduces the achievement of proper and convenient handling which is one of the objectives of the invention of this application. Also, the effect of reducing the consumption of electricity by having a viewfinder cannot be thought of as being significant within a predictable range by a person in the same field. Therefore, it is thought that the invention of this application can be easily configured through simple design changes from the cited invention by a person in the same field.

(Attached)

Attachment 1: Korea Published Patent Announcement No. 1999-24567 (April 6, 1999), 1 copy. End.

It is believed that the instant information disclosure statement is being filed prior to the mailing date of any Notice of Allowance or Final Office Action. However, if this information disclosure statement is filed after the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance or Final Office Action, then applicant(s) hereby request(s) and authorize(s) the PTO to charge the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 27, 2003

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